



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference BHAGNARID001		FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/PEA/416
International application No. PCT/IN2004/000243		International filing date (day/month/year) 11.08.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 13.08.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC E21B41.00, F23G7.08, F16K17/192				
Applicant OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITE et al.				
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of 6 sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 602 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>				
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain extracts in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>				
Date of submission of the demand 19.07.2005		Date of completion of this report 01.09.2005		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-85286 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399-1 • Fax: +49 89 2399-4465		Authorized Officer Mandache, I Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2065 		

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY

Box No. | Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 22.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

Description, Pages

3, 6, 7 as originally filed
1, 2, 4, 5 filed with the demand

Claims, Numbers

1-7 filed with the demand

Drawings, Sheets

15-16 as originally filed

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify):
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify):

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify):
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/IN2004/000243

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 7

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (indicate particular elements below) or said claims Nos. 7 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (specify):

see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos.

☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form ☐ has not been furnished

☐ does not comply with the standard

the computer readable form ☐ has not been furnished

☐ does not comply with the standard

☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

☐ See separate sheet for further details

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
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International application No.
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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-6
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-6
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-6
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

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(SEPARATE SHEET)

International application No.

PCT/IN2004/000243

Re Item III

In contrast with Rule 6.2(a) PCT claim 7 relies entirely on references to the drawings. As the claim has no technical features, the scope of the claim is not defined and for this reason this claim is not allowed.

Re Item V

Document D1: US 3 222 259 which is considered the most relevant state of the art discloses a liquid seal means comprising of: a bent tube preferably of U shape with uneven arm length, and a liquid holder, one arm of the U tube being connected to the plant and the other arm connected to the liquid holder, said liquid holder having an opening at the upper portion above the level of the liquid.

The further features of claim 1 are new and the claim meets therefore the novelty requirement of Art. 33(2)PCT.

In the hydrocarbon plants, the gas presenting a safety hazard is collected from the entire area of the plant and burned. As this gas is very rich in hydrocarbon content, it is desirable that as much as possible of it to be recovered. However, while the gas at a relatively low pressure can be safely recovered, there is always a risk of the unexpected increase in pressure making the recovery process difficult and unsafe.

By the means of a non return valve placed in a conduit communicating between the lower portions of the liquid holder and the U-tube, the pressure in the pipe collector is continuously compared to the hydrostatic pressure of the column of liquid contained in the U-tube. When a higher pressure in the pipe collector occurs, the movement of the liquid from the U-tube in the liquid holder creates a free access way between the collector pipe and flare pipe, and consequently the

pressure in the pipe collector is maintained in safe range.

As the additional features of claim 1 solve the posed problem and these features are not suggested in any of the documents cited in the search report, it is considered that claim 1 satisfies the criterion set forth in Art. 33(3) PCT.

Re Item VII

The following formal matters are pointed out:

The independent claims are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT.

No prior art is identified in disclosure as required by Rule 5.1(a)(ii).

The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses to increase the intelligibility of the claims (Rule 6.2(b)

PCT). This applies to both the preamble and characterizing portion.